

ASMFC NEWS RELEASE

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December 28, 2001

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ASMFC Releases Draft Tautog Addendum III for Public Comment  
MA, RI, NY, NJ, MD & VA to Hold Hearings Throughout January

Washington, DC - The Atlantic coastal states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia have scheduled the dates and times of their public meetings in order to gather public comment and input on the recently released Draft Addendum III to the Tautog Fishery Management Plan. Following are the details of those meetings.

January 15, 2002; 7:00 PM  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
2600 Washington Avenue, Fourth Floor  
Newport News, Virginia  
Contact: Jack Travelstead at (757) 247-2247

January 15, 2002; 7:00 PM  
New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife  
Clerk of the Board  
Administration Building  
101 Hooper Avenue  
Toms River, New Jersey  
Contact: Bruce Freeman (609)292-2083

January 22, 2002; 5:00 - 7:00 PM\*  
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management  
Fall River, MA  
Contacts: Dr. David Pierce at (617) 626-1532  
or Brian Murphy, RIDEM, at (401) 782-4713

January 24, 2002; 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Service  
The Gallery at the Fall River Heritage Center  
Worcester County Library  
11107 Cathell Road  
Ocean Pines, Maryland  
Contact: Howard King at (410) 260-8264

January 24, 2002; 7:00 PM  
New York Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Bureau of Marine Resources  
Conference Room  
205 North Belle Meade Road  
East Setauket, New York  
Contact: Byron Young at (631) 444-0435

\* Massachusetts and Rhode Island will be conducting a joint meeting to gather public input.

The Draft Addendum proposes a number of changes to the current management program for tautog. These include changes to the overfishing definition, stock rebuilding program, and stock assessment methodology and associated monitoring programs. It also seeks comment on how the necessary reductions in fishing mortality should be made -- either through reductions in the recreational fishery alone or through reductions to both commercial and recreational fisheries. Lastly, it presents three options for the implementation of complementary management measures in the federal waters of the exclusive economic zone.

The Draft Addendum will be available by January 1, 2002. Copies can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400 or <[vjones@asmfc.org](mailto:vjones@asmfc.org)>, or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). Written public comment will be accepted until February 15, 2002 and should be forwarded to Heather Stirratt, FMP Coordinator, 1444 Eye Street, NW, Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax) or <[hstirratt@asmfc.org](mailto:hstirratt@asmfc.org)>.